



King County

Mental Health, Chemical Abuse And Dependency Services Division

Department of
Community and Human Services

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King County Community Organizing Program Advisory Board Meeting Minutes January 18, 2011 Douglass Truth Library Meeting Room

Board Members present: Liz Wilhelm, Kitsap County Drug Free Communities, Co-Chair; Mark Howard, City of Seattle Emergency Management Services, Co-Chair; Kim Walker, UW Student and City of Bellevue Intern; Constance Perenyi, Friends of Third Place Commons

Staff Members present: Laura Quinn, Community Organizer; Sharon Toquinto, Prevention and Treatment Manager.

I. OPENING AND UPDATES

Introductions were provided by everyone in attendance, followed by personal and professional updates. Constance Perenyi was welcomed on to the Board.

Financial Disclosures forms were handed out to all Board members. These are required for anyone sitting on a Board or Committee to rule out conflicts of interest. The Board members who were present filled them out.

II. BOARD BUSINESS

1. Meth Action Team Update

Sharon gave an update on the Meth Action Team, as Geoff Miller was unable to attend the meeting. She reported that she and Geoff, along with the King County Sheriff's representatives Captain Ledford and Cindy Petit, had met recently with Carol Owen, who is the Contract Monitor for these federal funds. The money cannot be spent until December. The team had developed plans for trainings, including training Eastside officers who participate on drug task forces, as well as to follow up on kids taken out of meth homes. There are also tentative plans to sponsor another Celebrate Children event for these kids and their foster parents that would include a field trip, some training, and some education for the foster parents. At this point, the committee can only spend 90% of their allocated funding, though the executive committee will continue to meet monthly.

2. King County MHCADS Legislative Forum

The Board members and staff who were present gave their accounts of the recent Legislative Forum. There was a good turn-out of legislators and their aides, and moving stories were shared by recipients of MHCADS' various services, but in general, the budget news is very grim. Sharon reported that the Community Organizing program is listed as a priority for the division.

3. Upcoming Legislative Session

Under the supplemental budget, programs are cut first, and then budgets are developed. Community Mobilization was due to be cut by 17% in the Governor's budget, but that may now be closer to 11%. Mark brought up the question of the threshold at which the program can no longer be maintained. We will not know final budget figures until at least April, and it may take longer than that for the Dept. of Commerce to align their budget. The Board will continue to monitor the situation.

There are several prevention-related bills coming up: One in process deals with the return of unwanted prescription medicines; a bill that the County is concerned with states that a chemical dependency provider who does an initial assessment of a person, cannot be the one to provide treatment to them; there is a bill to prohibit smoking in cars with children in them; another bill deals with whether to allow wine tasting at Farmer's Markets; and, there is a bill dealing with prohibiting the chemicals used to make synthetic marijuana.

4. Board Recruitment Packet

The Board reviewed the draft Board recruitment packets and suggested a few edits. Laura Quinn will make the requested changes and send them out to the Board.

5. Prevention Redesign

Sharon reported that the process of selecting the first two King County communities is underway. The State provided data and requires choices based on need, and the AOD Prevention staff, along with Puget Sound ESD, and Laura Quinn, have met to determine selected schools within the chosen communities. Puget Sound ESD will approach these schools, then AOD and COP staff will approach local coalitions to see if they ready and/or willing to take on this project. We will help establish a community coalition if needed.

6. Regular Meeting Location

The third Tuesday of the month seems to work for most people, as does the time, 12:00-1:30. Helena was going to check and see if we can meet at the offices of SOAR and School's Out Washington for future meetings.

III. PROGRAM REPORTS AND UPDATES

Laura presented her monthly report to the board outlining her work in all parts of the county.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

SOAR

801 – 23rd Ave S.

Seattle, WA

12:30 p.m. -2:30 p.m.